
By: **Delegates Rosenberg and Branch**
Introduced and read first time: January 30, 2003
Assigned to: Appropriations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Welfare Innovation Act of 2003**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring local departments of social services to execute certain
4 hiring agreements with certain entities doing business with certain counties for
5 the purpose of hiring Family Investment Program (FIP) recipients; requiring a
6 governing body of a county to designate certain procurement contracts as
7 eligible contracts that are appropriate for execution of a hiring agreement;
8 requiring the Department of Human Resources to develop a certain model form;
9 requiring the Department and local departments of social services to submit a
10 certain annual report; repealing a certain limitation on temporary cash
11 assistance payments; requiring the Secretary of Human Resources to establish a
12 mentoring program for current FIP recipients; removing the Commission on
13 Responsible Fatherhood from the Child Support Enforcement Administration
14 but retaining the Commission under the Department of Human Resources for
15 certain purposes; providing for the use of certain funds in a certain account;
16 requiring the Commission on Responsible Fatherhood to conduct a certain study
17 and report its findings on or before a certain date; and generally relating to the
18 Family Investment Program and the Commission on Responsible Fatherhood.

19 BY adding to
20 Article 24 - Political Subdivisions - Miscellaneous Provisions
21 Section 18-101 to be under the new title "Title 18. Family Investment Program
22 Contracts and Hiring Agreements"
23 Annotated Code of Maryland
24 (2001 Replacement Volume and 2002 Supplement)

25 BY repealing
26 Article 88A - Department of Human Resources
27 Section 50(e)
28 Annotated Code of Maryland
29 (1998 Replacement Volume and 2002 Supplement)

30 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
31 Article 88A - Department of Human Resources

1 Section 56
2 Annotated Code of Maryland
3 (1998 Replacement Volume and 2002 Supplement)

4 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
5 Article 41 - Governor - Executive and Administrative Departments
6 Section 18-402
7 Annotated Code of Maryland
8 (1997 Replacement Volume and 2002 Supplement)

9 BY renumbering
10 Article 88A - Department of Human Resources
11 Section 50(f), (g), and (h), respectively
12 to be Section 50(e), (f), and (g), respectively
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (1998 Replacement Volume and 2002 Supplement)

15 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
16 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

17 **Article 24 - Political Subdivisions - Miscellaneous Provisions**

18 TITLE 18. FAMILY INVESTMENT PROGRAM CONTRACTS AND HIRING AGREEMENTS.

19 18-101.

20 (A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS
21 INDICATED.

22 (2) "DEPARTMENT" MEANS THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES.

23 (3) "ELIGIBLE CONTRACT" MEANS A PROCUREMENT CONTRACT
24 DESIGNATED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF A COUNTY AS APPROPRIATE FOR THE
25 EXECUTION OF A HIRING AGREEMENT.

26 (4) "FIP" MEANS THE FAMILY INVESTMENT PROGRAM ESTABLISHED
27 UNDER ARTICLE 88A OF THE CODE.

28 (5) "HIRING AGREEMENT" MEANS AN AGREEMENT ENTERED INTO BY A
29 LOCAL DEPARTMENT AND AN ENTITY DOING BUSINESS WITH A COUNTY UNDER
30 WHICH THE LOCAL DEPARTMENT AND THE ENTITY AGREE TO WORK
31 COOPERATIVELY IN ENDEAVORING TO IDENTIFY AND HIRE FIP RECIPIENTS TO FILL
32 JOB OPENINGS OF THE ENTITY.

33 (6) "LOCAL DEPARTMENT" MEANS A LOCAL DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL
34 SERVICES IN A COUNTY OR IN BALTIMORE CITY CREATED OR CONTINUED UNDER
35 THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE 88A, § 13 OF THE CODE.

1 (B) ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1, 2003, THE GOVERNING BODY OF A COUNTY, IN
2 CONSULTATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT, SHALL DESIGNATE THE TYPES OF
3 PROCUREMENT CONTRACTS THAT ARE ELIGIBLE CONTRACTS.

4 (C) (1) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2003, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL
5 DEVELOP A MODEL HIRING AGREEMENT FORM THAT SHALL BE COMPLETED BY A
6 LOCAL DEPARTMENT AND AN ENTITY IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE AWARD OF AN
7 ELIGIBLE CONTRACT.

8 (2) THE MODEL HIRING AGREEMENT FORM SHALL INCLUDE THE
9 FOLLOWING PROVISIONS:

10 (I) THAT THE ENTITY WILL:

11 1. INFORM THE LOCAL DEPARTMENT OF THE ENTITY'S JOB
12 OPENINGS;

13 2. DECLARE THE LOCAL DEPARTMENT ITS "FIRST SOURCE"
14 IN IDENTIFYING AND HIRING CANDIDATES TO FILL THOSE JOB OPENINGS;

15 3. WORK COOPERATIVELY WITH THE LOCAL DEPARTMENT
16 TO DEVELOP ANY NECESSARY TRAINING PROGRAMS THAT WILL ENABLE FIP
17 RECIPIENTS IN QUALIFYING FOR AND SECURING THE POSITIONS;

18 4. GIVE FIRST PREFERENCE AND FIRST CONSIDERATION TO
19 THE EXTENT PERMITTED BY LAW AND ANY EXISTING LABOR AGREEMENTS TO
20 CANDIDATES REFERRED TO THE ENTITY BY THE LOCAL DEPARTMENT;

21 5. AGREE TO GIVE CANDIDATES REFERRED TO THE ENTITY
22 BY THE LOCAL DEPARTMENT PRIORITY IN THE FILLING OF A JOB OPENING IF THE
23 CANDIDATE MEETS THE QUALIFICATIONS OF THE POSITION;

24 6. PROVIDE THE LOCAL DEPARTMENT WITH INFORMATION
25 ON THE DISPOSITION OF ALL REFERRALS MADE BY THE LOCAL DEPARTMENT
26 INCLUDING AN EXPLANATION OF WHY ANY SUCH CANDIDATE WAS NOT HIRED OR
27 CONSIDERED QUALIFIED;

28 7. PROVIDE THE LOCAL DEPARTMENT WITH INFORMATION
29 REGARDING THE PROGRESS AND EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF THOSE CANDIDATES
30 REFERRED BY THE LOCAL DEPARTMENT THAT THE ENTITY HIRED; AND

31 8. DESIGNATE A SPECIFIC INDIVIDUAL THAT THE LOCAL
32 DEPARTMENT MAY CONTACT IN REGARD TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE HIRING
33 AGREEMENT; AND

34 (II) THAT THE LOCAL DEPARTMENT WILL ASSIGN AN ACCOUNT
35 REPRESENTATIVE TO THE ENTITY THAT WILL:

36 1. RECEIVE AND PROCESS ALL OF THE ENTITY'S JOB
37 NOTIFICATIONS;

1 (5) A local department may pay an administrative fee to a third party
2 payee to cover the administrative costs of the third party payee for managing the
3 child-specific benefit.

4 (6) The Secretary shall adopt regulations specifying the selection criteria
5 for third party payees under this subsection.]

6 56.

7 (a) The Secretary, in cooperation with directors of local departments of social
8 services, shall establish a mentoring program for CURRENT AND former FIP
9 recipients.

10 (b) The mentoring program may include Family Investment Program
11 caseworkers in local departments who volunteer to be mentors.

12 (c) The Department may contract with other organizations under § 47 of this
13 article to acquire mentors for CURRENT AND former FIP recipients.

14 (d) Mentoring may include:

15 (1) Providing assistance to resolve workplace problems;

16 (2) Providing workplace adjustment assistance;

17 (3) Job coaching;

18 (4) Life skills;

19 (5) Counseling and tutoring; and

20 (6) Any other activities that will help CURRENT FIP RECIPIENTS EXIT
21 FROM TEMPORARY CASH ASSISTANCE AND former FIP recipients through the first
22 months that they are off temporary cash assistance.

23 (e) To be eligible to participate in the mentoring program, an individual shall:

24 (1) BE A CURRENT FIP RECIPIENT; OR

25 [(1)] (2) (I) Have been a FIP recipient in the previous 6 months;

26 [(2)] (II) Have been employed; and

27 [(3)] (III) Have a demonstrated need and desire for assistance in
28 acquiring and maintaining the skills necessary for a lasting exit from temporary cash
29 assistance.

30 (f) Program participation may not exceed 6 months.

31 (g) The Secretary may arrange to provide pay or other types of incentives to
32 employees who volunteer to mentor CURRENT AND former FIP recipients.

1 (h) The Secretary's powers under this section shall be given liberal
2 construction.

3 **Article 41 - Governor - Executive and Administrative Departments**

4 18-402.

5 (a) There is a Commission on Responsible Fatherhood.

6 (b) The Commission shall be independent and located in the Department of
7 Human Resources [Child Support Enforcement Administration] for budgetary and
8 administrative purposes only.

9 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section(s) 50(f), (g), and
10 (h), respectively, of Article 88A - Department of Human Resources of the Annotated
11 Code of Maryland be renumbered to be Section(s) 50(e), (f), and (g), respectively.

12 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Dedicated Purpose
13 Account for the Family Investment Program established under Chapter 593, § 7, of
14 the Acts of the General Assembly of 1997, and Chapter 637, § 7, of the Acts of the
15 General Assembly of 1998, may be used for the following purposes:

16 (a) Providing assistance to needy families so that children may be cared for in
17 their own homes or in the homes of relatives;

18 (b) Ending the dependence of needy parents on government benefits by
19 promoting job preparation, work, and marriage;

20 (c) Preventing and reducing the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies;

21 (d) Encouraging the formation and maintenance of two-parent families; and

22 (e) Reducing poverty.

23 SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

24 (a) The Commission on Responsible Fatherhood shall study the feasibility of
25 mandating that unemployed fathers who owe child support participate in
26 work-related activities or community service.

27 (b) In conducting the study, the Commission shall consider:

28 (1) providing stipends while unemployed fathers learn skills or search
29 for jobs;

30 (2) whether community-based programs that have a proven track record
31 for assisting women could be used to assist unemployed fathers; and

32 (3) the possibility of using federal or State welfare dollars for the
33 program.

1 (c) The study shall also determine whether the program could:

2 (1) increase the possibility that unemployed fathers will meet their
3 child-support obligations and become more involved with their children; and

4 (2) encourage family formation.

5 (d) The Commission shall report its findings and recommendations, subject to
6 § 2-1312 of the State Government Article, to the Joint Committee on Welfare Reform
7 on or before November 1, 2003.

8 SECTION 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
9 July 1, 2003.